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## DCI WORLDWIDE BRIEFING - NICARAGUA

The Sandinistas have made important strides toward consolidating their power through various mechanisms:

- Supreme political power is in the hands of the 9 member National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), who are Marxist-Leninists.
- The Sandinistas command a large and well-equipped military force, and a secret police.
- The FSLN is the only political party which is permitted to operate freely, and it dominates the quasi-legislative Council of State.
- Mass organizations have been established for the purpose of socialization and exercising social control, including neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committees, labor unions, and youth organizations.
- The government has encouraged the growth of the "popular church" to undermine the influence of the Catholic hierarchy.
- The Sandinistas have exploited their great expansion of the nation's health care and educational systems in a bid for popular support, and have used the classroom for political indoctrination.
- Cuba has aided the Sandinistas redirect society toward revolutionary goals by sending 5,000-6,000 civilian personnel to Nicaragua, including 2,000 teachers, brigades of medical personnel, and advisers to most government agencies.

Moderate and democratic forces are excluded from power, and their activities are severely curtailed, but they continue to work and alter the course of the revolution. They include:

- Four democratic political parties, three of which are members--along with business groups--of the Democratic Coordinating Board.

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- Business associations and cooperatives.
- Two trade union federations.
- One opposition newspaper, and two radio stations.
- Atlantic Coast Indian communities and Creoles overwhelmingly oppose the regime.
- The Catholic Church is particularly influential, and its hierarchy has opposed Sandinista policies; English-speaking Protestant sects have been branded as "counterrevolutionaries" by the Sandinistas, but mainline Protestant churches enjoy better relations.

The following political leaders have left the country because of their opposition to Sandinista policies:

- All of the top leadership of the National Democratic Movement, led by former Junta member Alfonso Robelo.
- Eden Pastora, Sandinista revolutionary hero and former Vice-Minister of Defense.
- Former Junta members Violeta Chamorro and Arturo Cruz.
- Edgar Macias, former President of the Sandinista allied Popular Social Christian Party.
- Jose Davila, Vice-President of the Central Bank under the Sandinistas.
- Alfredo Cesar, President of the Central Bank under the Sandinistas.
- Wilfredo Montalvan, former Secretary General of the opposition Social Democratic Party.

The Sandinistas have violated their 1979 pledge to the OAS to guarantee a mixed economy, political pluralism, and a non-aligned foreign policy.

- The Government has slowly squeezed the private sector, through nationalizations, restrictive regulations, and political harrassment.
- Political repression has been particularly severe since the declaration of a state of emergency in March 1982, and its repeated renewal.

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- The independent media is censored.
- Political organizations are prohibited from striking or organizing.
- Labor unions are prohibited from striking or organizing.
- The Government has used organized mobs to intimidate the opposition and the Church.
- Members of all opposition parties have been jailed for political activities; several hundred people have been arrested recently--mostly in the northern border area--and charged with "counterrevolutionary" activity.
- The Sandinistas recently announced plans to discuss new laws on political parties, the media, and elections, in preparation for elections in 1985.
- The Sandinistas have already shown that they will discuss liberalization on their own terms; opposition proposals for dialogue were rejected out of hand.
- Although the Sandinistas appear willing to make concessions, the plans to institutionalize the regime will now weaken basic Sandinista political control.
- The Government has abused other human rights:
  - Scores of Miskito Indian villages were destroyed in December 1981 when the Government attempted to construct a cordon sanitaire along its northeast border.
  - Over 8,000 Miskitos have been moved to camps where they are not permitted to leave.
  - Cases of torture are few, but they do exist.
- Nicaraguan foreign policy is nonaligned in name only, as the Sandinistas have consistently supported their Soviet and Cuban patrons.

The Nicaraguans have built up the largest military force in the region, which has a destabilizing effect on regional security.

- Somoza had a National Guard of 9,000, which expanded to 14,000 during the civil war.

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- In contrast, Sandinista regular armed forces are about 20,000 with an additional 20,000 in ready reserve; the Sandinistas claim 80,000 are enrolled in the militia, of which we estimate 25,000 are organized in batallions.
- Over 30 new military bases have been built.
- The large increase in military equipment includes:
  - 25 T-54 or T-55 Soviet made tanks.
  - 12 BTR-60 Soviet made armored personnel carriers.
  - Approximately 25 armored vehicles were received in late November 1982, of undetermined type.
  - 12 152mm artillery pieces and 12 122mm multiple rocket launchers.
  - Over 500 trucks from East Germany.
  - 12-13 helicopters, including recent deliveries from Libya.
  - 8 combat aircraft.
- The Sandinistas are given military training by 1500-2000 Cuban military and security advisers, as well as small numbers of Soviet and Bloc personnel.

#### Export of Subversion

- Began in August 1979 with the building of guerrilla training camps in Nicaragua.
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**Tensions Along the Border with Honduras**

-- Sporadic violence has taken place along the border since the Sandinistas took power, including clashes between Nicaraguan and Honduran troops.

-- The Hondurans considered their stability threatened by Sandinista ties to Honduran leftists, arms trafficking, and aggressive patrolling on Honduran territory.

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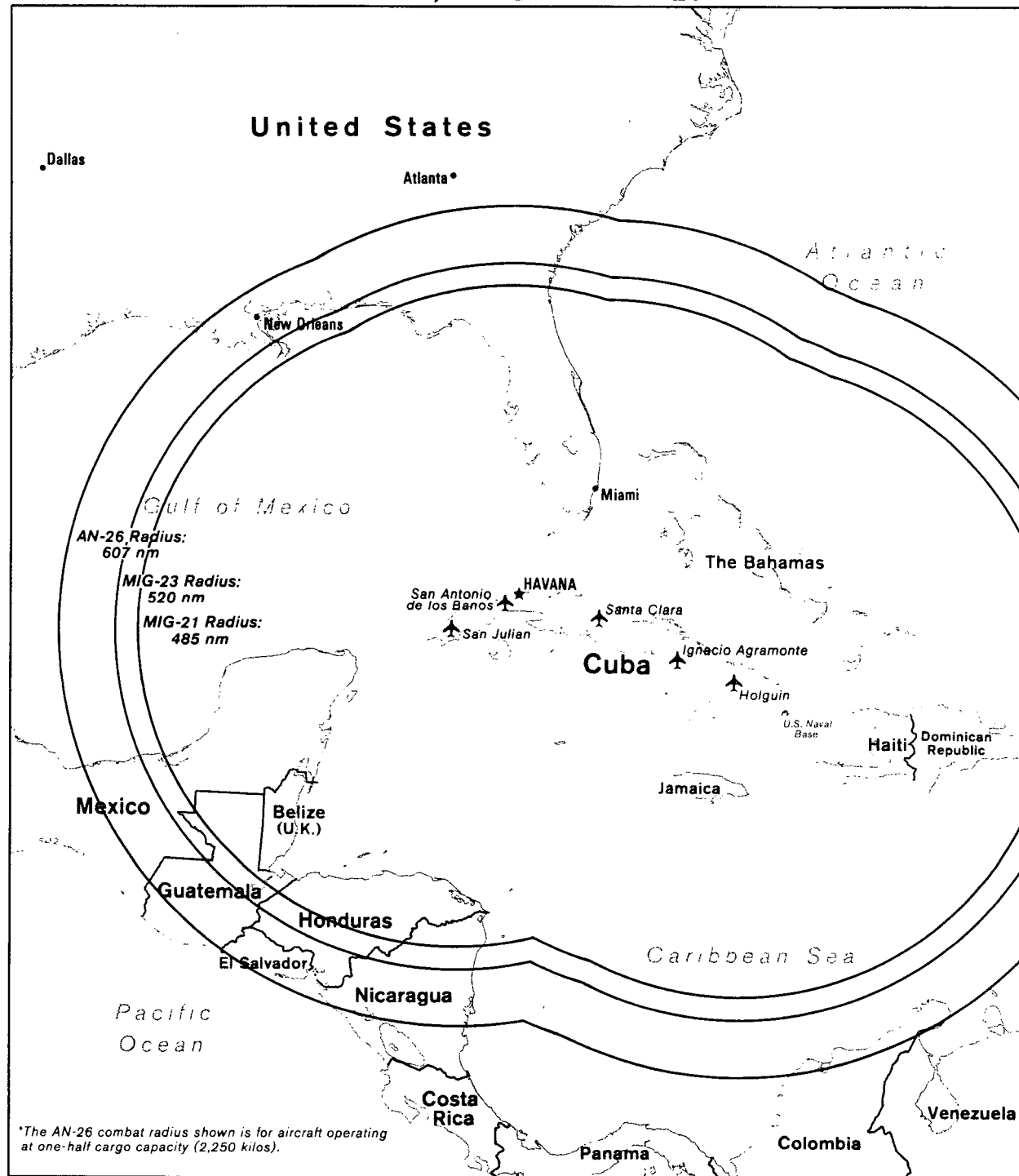
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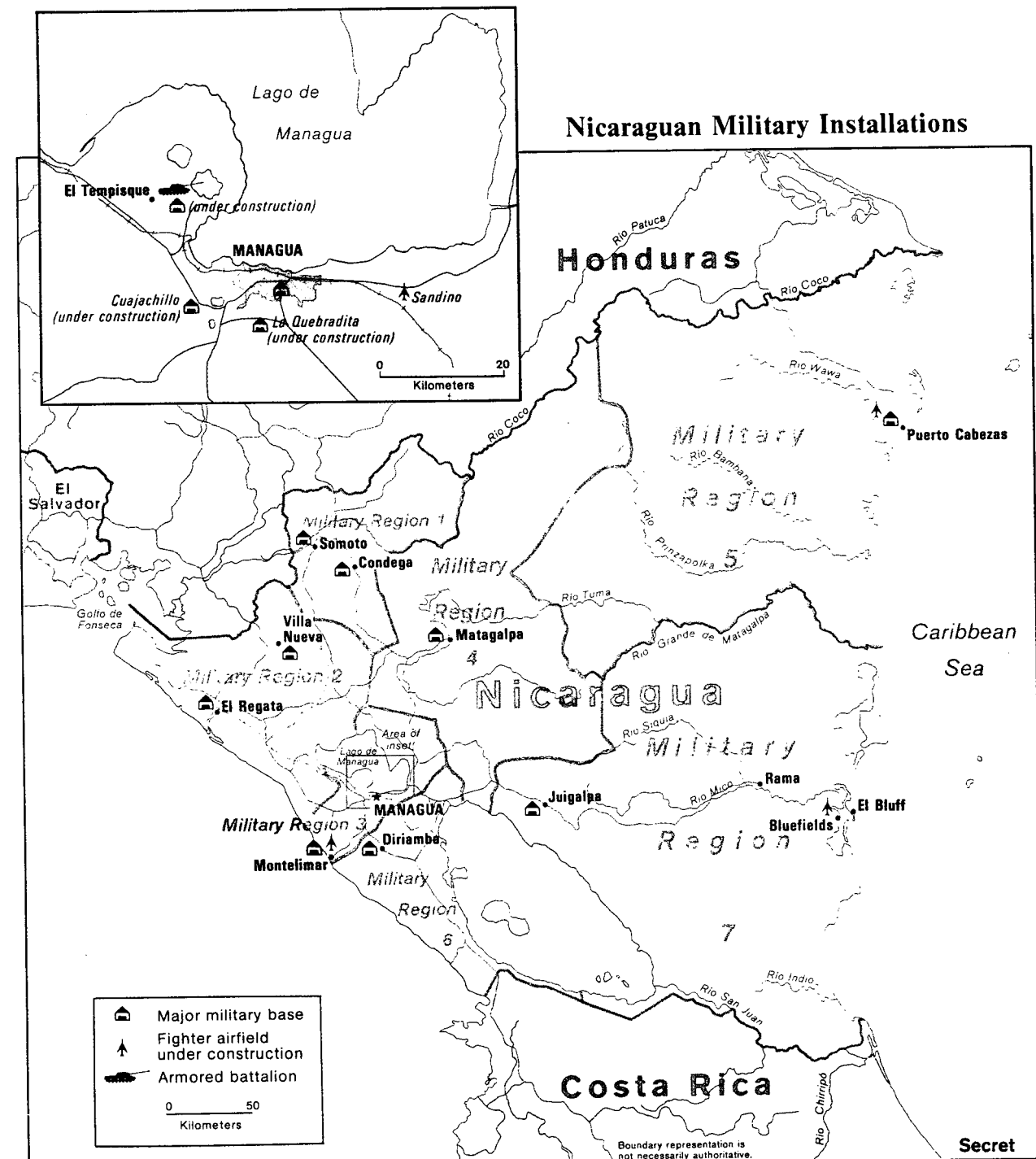
- Anti-Sandinista attacks began to grow in late 1981.
- They now take place on an almost daily basis.
- Reportedly, the largest group, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), now has some 3,500 armed men.
- It recently began infiltrating to establish base camps in Nicaragua.

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*We are changing map to show  
that Actual Range is shorter.*

### Combat Radii of Cuban MIG-23s, MIG-21s and AN-26s\*





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